

**NONPROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR LETTERS PATENT
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

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Be it known that I, **JAMES CONERTON**, residing at **355 Wynland Trace, Atlanta, GA 30350**, a citizen of the United States, have invented certain new and useful improvements in an

15 **APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR SUPPORTING AN ELECTRONIC VISUAL
DISPLAY**

20 of which the following is a specification.

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INVENTOR'S REPRESENTATIVE

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**APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR SUPPORTING AN ELECTRONIC VISUAL
DISPLAY**

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TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates generally to furniture, and more specifically to an apparatus for supporting television monitors, plasma screens, computer monitors, 10 motorized projection screens and/or other electronic visual displays, wherein the apparatus comprises apertures and channels for managing and concealing electrical cables and wires.

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

With recent innovations and advancements in technology, electronic visual displays, such as televisions 20 and computer monitors, are becoming increasingly thinner and more affordable. Because such ultra-thin visual displays have become more prevalent, the need for furniture

specifically adapted to support such displays has grown accordingly. Unfortunately, conventional entertainment units are generally unsuitable to support such thin screen media, as the sheer depth and size of such entertainment 5 units are typically more suited for accommodating conventional tube televisions and the like.

Additionally, because flat screen monitors usually possess a height much greater than their base, such 10 monitors are typically unstable and, as such, are susceptible to tipping over. Although, pedestals specifically designed to support flat screen monitors are available, as are support brackets for wall-mounting flat screen televisions, such support devices have not been 15 incorporated into existing furniture pieces to facilitate accommodation of flat screen displays therewithin.

Furthermore, current support mechanisms do not provide a sufficient means for managing and/or concealing the 20 numerous electrical cables and wires needed to power and support the audiovisual display. Unfortunately, the integration of audiovisual accessories significantly exacerbates the problem. For example, to wall mount a flat

screen, holes must typically be drilled into the wall to conceal power, cable, DVD, VCR, stereo, camera and/or video game console wires and cables. Moreover, several such holes may be necessary to receive wiring and cabling from 5 additional electronic devices.

Therefore, it is readily apparent that there is a need for an apparatus for supporting an electronic visual display, and for managing and concealing the numerous 10 cables and wires associated therewith. Furthermore, there is a need for such an apparatus that enables easy installation and integration of electronic accessories and their associated wire connections.

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BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Briefly described, in a preferred embodiment, the present invention overcomes the above-mentioned 20 disadvantages and meets the recognized need for such a device by providing an apparatus for supporting electronic visual displays, wherein the apparatus comprises a

plurality of apertures and channels for managing and concealing electrical cables and wires.

According to its major aspects and broadly stated, the
5 present invention in its preferred form is an apparatus for supporting television monitors, plasma screens, computer monitors, motorized projection screens and/or other electronic visual displays, wherein an A/V connector plate is provided to integrate auxiliary electronic devices, and
10 wherein apertures and channels are provided to manage and conceal the cables and wires needed to support the electronic visual display.

More specifically, the apparatus possesses a first
15 aperture to permit cables and wires to traverse therethrough, wherein a plurality of smaller apertures are formed around the first aperture for receiving mounting screws therein, and wherein the electronic visual display is mounted over the first aperture. A horizontally
20 elongated recess is situated on a lower rear portion of the apparatus, wherein a power outlet and audiovisual source, namely a television antenna, satellite dish or cable outlet, are located proximal to the recess when the

apparatus is secured to a wall surface. The apparatus also possesses an A/V connector plate for connecting auxiliary electronic devices to the electronic visual display, power source, and/or audiovisual source.

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A first channel is disposed on the apparatus to connect the recess to the first aperture, thereby permitting wires and cables to connect the electronic visual display to the power source and/or audiovisual 10 source disposed on the wall surface. A second channel is disposed on the apparatus to connect the recess to the A/V connector plate, thereby permitting wires and cables to connect selected auxiliary electronic devices to the electronic visual display, power source, and/or audiovisual 15 source disposed on the wall surface.

Accordingly, a feature and advantage of the present invention is its ability to mount and display an electronic visual display, yet effectively manage and conceal the 20 cables and wires needed to power and support the electronic visual display.

Another feature and advantage of the present invention is its ease of assembly.

Another feature and advantage of the present invention is its ability to permit the integration of auxiliary electronic devices, such as VCRs, DVD players, stereos, cameras, and/or video game consoles, yet effectively manage and conceal associated cables and wires.

10 These and other features and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent to one skilled in the art from the following description and claims when read in light of the accompanying drawings.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present invention will be better understood by reading the Detailed Description of the Preferred and Selected Alternate Embodiments with reference to the accompanying drawing figures, in which like reference numerals denote similar structure and refer to like elements throughout, and in which:

FIG. 1 is a front perspective view of a preferred embodiment of the present invention;

5 **FIG. 2** is a side view of a preferred embodiment of the present invention; and

10 **FIG. 3** is a rear perspective view of a preferred embodiment of the present invention, wherein the rear panel is disengaged from the apparatus.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED
AND SELECTED ALTERNATIVE EMBODIMENTS

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In describing the preferred and selected alternate embodiments of the present invention, as illustrated in **FIGS. 1-3**, specific terminology is employed for the sake of clarity. The invention, however, is not intended to be limited to the specific terminology so selected, and it is 20 to be understood that each specific element includes all

technical equivalents that operate in a similar manner to accomplish similar functions.

Referring now to **FIGS. 1-3**, the present invention in a preferred embodiment is an apparatus **10** for displaying a television monitor **M** on a wall surface **W**; however, it is contemplated in an alternative embodiment that apparatus **10** could be utilized to display other electronic devices and equipment, such as, for exemplary purposes only, plasma screens, computer monitors, motorized projection screens, and/or audio speakers. It is also contemplated that apparatus could be utilized to display a television monitor **M** on adjacent wall surfaces, on a ceiling surface or on adjacent ceiling and wall surfaces. Apparatus **10** generally preferably comprises front panel **20**, middle portion **50** and rear panel **150**. More specifically, front panel **20** preferably comprises front side **21**, rear side **23**, top edge **22**, bottom edge **24**, left edge **26** and right edge **28**, wherein front panel **20** is preferably in the form of a rectangular wooden board with a veneer or laminate finish. It is recognized that front panel **20** could alternatively embody other suitable shapes and could be formed from other suitable materials, such as, for exemplary purposes only,

particle board, tin, aluminum, plastic, or other strong, rigid, yet relatively lightweight materials.

Preferably formed on upper portion **25** of front panel **20** is aperture **30**, wherein aperture **30** is preferably centrally positioned between left edge **26** and right edge **28**. Preferably, aperture **30** is rectangular-shaped and comprises corners **32**, **34**, **36** and **38**, wherein circular-shaped apertures **40**, **42**, **44** and **46** are disposed proximal to corners **32**, **34**, **36** and **38**, respectively, for receiving mounting screws therein, as more fully described below. It is recognized that apertures **30**, **40**, **42**, **44** and **46** could alternatively embody other suitable shapes and could be situated anywhere on front panel **20**, so long as a mounting bracket may be mounted over aperture **30** for purposes more fully described below.

Preferably, middle portion **50** of apparatus **10** is in the form of a rectangular board comprising front side **52**, rear side **54**, top edge **56**, bottom edge **58**, left edge **60** and right edge **62**. Preferably, the width of top and bottom edges **56** and **58**, respectively, of middle portion **50** are approximately equal to the width of top and bottom edges **22**.

and **24**, respectively, of front panel **20**; the length of left and right edges **60** and **62**, respectively, of middle portion **50** are approximately five inches shorter than the length of left and right edges **26** and **28**, respectively, of front panel **20**; and the thickness of middle portion **50** is approximately three times the thickness of front panel **20**. Middle portion **50** is preferably formed from recycled cardboard; however, it is contemplated that middle portion **50** could alternatively be formed from other suitable materials, such as, for exemplary purposes only wood, particle board, cork, expanded polystyrene, or other relatively strong, lightweight materials.

Referring now to FIG. 3, preferably formed on upper middle region **51** of middle portion **50** are apertures **61**, **63**, **64**, **66** and **68**, wherein apertures **61**, **63**, **64**, **66** and **68** are substantially identical to apertures **30**, **40**, **42**, **44** and **46**, formed on front panel **20**, and wherein apertures **61**, **63**, **64**, **66** and **68** are substantially aligned with apertures **30**, **40**, **42**, **44** and **46** when top edge **22** of front panel **20** is aligned with top edge **56** of middle portion **50**, as more fully described below.

Preferably disposed on lower portion **53** of rear side **54** of middle portion **50** is substantially rectangular-shaped recess **70**. Preferably, recess **70** is centrally positioned between left edge **60** and right edge **62** of middle portion **50**, and situated approximately **5** inches from bottom edge **58**. It is recognized that recess **70** could alternatively embody other suitable shapes and/or sizes, and that any number of recesses **70** could be situated in any suitable configuration on apparatus **10**, so long as recess **70** accommodates for electrical outlets and plugs to pass through and permit apparatus **10** to stand flush against wall surface **W**, as more fully described below. Preferably, recess **70** is horizontally elongated to increase the lateral area in which apparatus **10** may be positioned on wall surface **W** to accommodate for outlets and plugs.

Preferably, channel **80** is disposed on rear side **54** of middle portion **50**, wherein channel **80** is centrally positioned between left edge **60** and right edge **62** of middle portion **50**, and wherein channel **80** extends from aperture **61** to recess **70**. It is recognized that channel **80** could be alternatively situated at any suitable position on apparatus **10**, so long as cables, wires and/or other similar

electrical conductors can extend from aperture **61**, through channel **80**, and into recess **70**, as more fully described below.

5 Preferably, horizontal channel **90** is disposed on lower portion **53** of rear side **54** of middle portion **50**, wherein channel **90** extends from left edge **60** to right edge **62**. It is recognized in an alternate embodiment that channel **90** could be situated at any suitable position on apparatus **10**,
10 so long as cables and wires can extend from channel **90** to aperture **61**, as more fully described below.

Preferably disposed on rear side **54** of middle portion **50** are vertical slits **100** and **102**. Preferably, slits **100** and **102** are disposed through channel **90**, wherein slit **100** is disposed proximate to left edge **60** of middle portion **50**, and wherein slit **102** is disposed proximate to right edge **62** of middle portion **50**. Slits **100** and **102** are preferably configured to receive and retain blank plate **110** and A/V connector plate **120** via frictional fit, wherein slit **100** preferably possesses blank plate **110**, and wherein slit **102** preferably possesses A/V connector plate **120**. It is recognized that slit **100** could possess blank plate **110** or

A/V connector plate **120**, and slit **102** could possess blank plate **110** or A/V connector plate **120**. Moreover, it is recognized that although blank plate **110** and A/V connector plate **120** are preferably removably secured to middle portion **50**, blank plate **110** and A/V connector plate **120** could be permanently affixed to middle portion **50**.

Preferably, blank plate **110** is provided to cover and seal channel **90**, wherein blank plate **110** is in the form of a rectangular-shaped piece of wood. It is recognized, however, that blank plate **110** could alternatively embody other suitable shapes and/or sizes, and could be formed from other suitable materials, such as, for exemplary purposes only particle board, cardboard, aluminum, tin, or plastic.

A/V connector plate **120** is preferably a thin rectangular plate possessing a plurality of A/V connection ports, as is known within the art, for connecting auxiliary electronic devices to television monitor **M**, as more fully described below. It is recognized that A/V connector plate **120** could also possess supplemental power outlets and/or a cable outlet to connect auxiliary electronic devices to a

power source and/or an audiovisual source, as more fully described below. It is further contemplated that apparatus **10** could possess any number and configuration of A/V connection ports, cable outlets and/or supplemental power outlets. Although apparatus **10** preferably comprises A/V connector plate **120** disposed on a lower outer portion of apparatus **10**, it is contemplated in an alternate embodiment that apparatus **10** could possess any number of A/V connector plates **120** situated in any suitable configuration on apparatus **10**.

Preferably, channel **130** is disposed on rear side **54** of middle portion **50**, wherein channel **130** is centrally positioned between left edge **60** and right edge **62** of middle portion **50**, and wherein channel **130** extends from channel **90** to recess **70**. It is contemplated in an alternate embodiment that channel **130** could be situated at any suitable position on apparatus **10**, so long as cables and wires can extend from channel **90** to recess **70**, as more fully described below. Furthermore, although apparatus **10** preferably comprises channels **80**, **90**, and **130**, it is contemplated in an alternate embodiment that apparatus **10** could comprise any number of channels, situated in any

suitable configuration within apparatus 10, so long as wires and/or cables are able to traverse channels connecting recess 70 to aperture 61 and/or A/V connector plate 120, and so long as wires and/or cables are able to 5 traverse channels connecting aperture 61 to A/V connector plate 120.

Preferably, rear side 54 of middle portion 50 further possesses threaded screw holes 140, 142, 144 and 146 for 10 attaching middle portion 50 to rear panel 150, as more fully described below. Preferably, screw hole 140 is disposed on upper left portion 71 of rear side 54, screw hole 142 is disposed on upper right portion 73 of rear side 54, screw hole 144 is disposed on bottom left portion 75 of 15 rear side 54, and screw hole 146 is disposed on lower right portion 77 of rear side 54. It is recognized that middle portion 50 could comprise any number of screw holes, situated in any suitable configuration on rear side 54, so long as rear panel 150 can be removably secured to middle 20 portion 50, as more fully described below.

Preferably, rear panel 150 is in the form of a rectangular board comprising front side 152, rear side 154,

top edge **156**, bottom edge **158**, left edge **160** and right edge **162**. Preferably, rear panel **150** is preferably substantially identical to front panel **20**, wherein the width of top and bottom edges **156** and **158** of rear panel **150** 5 are approximately equal to the width of top and bottom edges **22** and **24** of front panel **20**; however, the length of left and right edges **160** and **162** of rear panel **150** are preferably approximately five inches shorter than the length of left and right edges **26** and **28** of front panel **20**.
10 It is recognized that rear panel **150** could alternatively embody other suitable shapes and/or sizes, and that rear panel **150** could be formed from other suitable materials, such as, for exemplary purposes only, particle board, tin, aluminum, plastic, or other strong, rigid, yet relatively
15 lightweight materials.

Preferably formed on upper middle portion **151** of rear panel **150** are apertures **170**, **172**, **174**, **176** and **178**, wherein apertures **170**, **172**, **174**, **176** and **178** are substantially 20 identical to apertures **30**, **40**, **42**, **44** and **46**, respectively, formed on front panel **20**. Preferably, when top edge **156** of rear panel **150** is aligned with top edge **22** of front panel **20** and top edge **56** of middle portion **50**, as more fully

described below, apertures 170, 172, 174, 176 and 178, formed on rear panel 150, align with apertures 30, 40, 42, 44 and 46, respectively, formed on front panel 20, and apertures 61, 63, 64, 66 and 68, respectively, formed on middle portion 50, to form throughholes 180, 184, 186, 188 and 190, respectively, for purposes more fully described below. Preferably, throughholes 180, 184, 186, 188 and 190, and associated apertures formed on front panel 20, middle portion 50 and rear panel 150, are positioned at selected distances from one another depending on the location of the mounting screw apertures disposed on the selected associated mounting plate, as more fully described below. It is contemplated in an alternate embodiment that apparatus 10 could possess any number of apertures and throughholes, situated in any suitable configuration on apparatus 10, so long as apparatus 10 can be mounted to wall surface W and so long as wires and cables can be passed through and out of apparatus 10.

Aperture 200 is preferably centrally disposed on lower portion 153 of rear panel 150, wherein aperture 200 is preferably dimensioned and positioned to engage recess 20 when top edge 156 of rear panel 150 is aligned with top

edge **56** of middle portion **50**, as more fully described below. Aperture **200**, in combination with recess **20**, preferably accommodates for electrical outlets and plugs to pass therethrough and permit apparatus **10** to stand flush
5 against wall surface **W**.

Preferably, rear panel **150** further possesses apertures **210**, **212**, **214** and **216** for attaching rear panel **150** to middle portion **50**, as more fully described below, wherein
10 apertures **210**, **212**, **214** and **216** are dimensioned and positioned to engage screw holes **140**, **142**, **144** and **146**, formed on middle portion **50**, when top edge **156** of rear panel **150** is aligned with top edge **56** of middle portion **50**, as more fully described below. It is recognized that rear
15 panel **150** could comprise any number of apertures, situated in any suitable configuration on rear panel **150**, so long as rear panel **150** can be removably secured to middle portion **50**, as more fully described below.

20 Front panel **20** is preferably permanently attached to middle portion **50**, wherein top edge **22** of front panel **20** is preferably aligned with top edge **56** of middle portion **50**. Rear side **23** of front panel **20** is preferably glued to front

side **52** of middle portion **50**; although it is recognized that other suitable fasteners could alternatively be utilized, such as, for exemplary purposes only, screws, rivets, bolts, nails, rubber cement, or other suitable
5 adhesives.

After the appropriate wires and cables are set into place, as more fully described below, rear panel **150** is preferably removably secured to middle portion **50**, wherein
10 top edge **156** of rear panel **150** is preferably aligned with top edge **56** of middle portion **50**. Preferably, screws are inserted into apertures **210**, **212**, **214** and **216**, formed on rear panel **150**, to removably secure front side **152** of rear panel **150** to rear side **54** of middle portion **50**; however, it
15 is recognized that other suitable fasteners could be utilized, such as, for exemplary purposes only, a tab and slot engagement.

Referring back to **FIG. 2**, and with continued reference
20 to **FIG. 3**, notch **220** is preferably disposed on lower rear portion **11** of apparatus **10**, wherein notch **220** preferably accommodates for base trim and or floor molding on wall

surface **W**, if present, to permit apparatus **10** to stand flush against a wall surface.

Now referring back to **FIG. 1**, with continued reference 5 to **FIG. 3**, after the appropriate wires and cables are set into place, as more fully described below, a flat screen television monitor or plasma screen mounting plate **P** is preferably affixed to front panel **20** of apparatus **10** via insertion of mounting screws **S** through mounting plate **P** and 10 into throughholes **184, 186, 188** and **190**, wherein mounting screws **S** preferably extend passed apertures **170, 172, 174, 176** and **178**, formed on rear panel **150**, and into wall surface **W**, thereby anchoring and removably securing apparatus **10** to wall surface **W**. Preferably, mounting plate 15 **P** is a conventional attachment plate for mounting a flat screen television monitor or plasma screen to a wall surface, as is known within the art. Mounting plate **P** is typically included with the purchase of a flat screen television monitor or plasma screen. Subsequently, 20 television monitor **M** is preferably removably secured to mounting plate **P**. It is contemplated in an alternative embodiment that other suitable fasteners for mounting television monitor **M** to apparatus **10** and for affixing

apparatus **10** to wall surface **W** could be utilized, such as, for exemplary purposes only, brackets, nails, bolts, rivets, dowels, and the like.

5 To operate apparatus **10**, first wire set **C1** is preferably utilized to connect television monitor **M** to a power and/or audiovisual source, second wire set **C2** is preferably utilized to connect television monitor **M** to A/V connector plate **120**, and third wire set **C3** is preferably
10 utilized to connect A/V connector plate **120** to the power and/or audiovisual source. Prior to attaching rear panel **150** to middle portion **50**, and prior to mounting apparatus **10** to wall surface **W**, first wire set **C1**, second wire set **C2** and third wire set **C3** are preferably appropriately
15 positioned within apparatus **10**, as more fully described below.

Preferably, to connect television monitor **M** to a power and/or audiovisual source, first wire set **C1** is inserted
20 into throughhole **180**, wherein first wire set **C1** is subsequently passed through channel **80** and into recess **70**. Television monitor **M** is preferably mounted proximal to throughhole **180**. Preferably, a power outlet and

audiovisual source, preferably an antenna, satellite dish or cable outlet, are located proximal to recess 70 when apparatus 10 is secured to wall surface W.

5 Preferably, to connect television monitor M to A/V connector plate 120, second wire set C2 is inserted into throughhole 180, wherein second wire set C2 is subsequently passed through channel 80, recess 70, channel 130 and into channel 90. Preferably, to connect A/V connector plate 120
10 to the power and/or audiovisual source disposed on wall surface W, third wire set C3 is inserted into recess 70, wherein third wire set C3 is subsequently passed through channel 130 and into channel 90.

15 It is contemplated that any number and configuration of cables and/or wires could be utilized to connect and integrate the various electronic devices, or that apparatus 10 could possess built-in cables and wires to connect the various electronic devices. Preferably, rear panel 150 is
20 removably secured to middle portion 50 to enclose the wires and cables, wherein screws are inserted into throughholes 210, 212, 214 and 216 formed on rear panel 150.

In an alternate embodiment, apparatus **10** could lack rear panel **150**.

In another alternate embodiment, apparatus **10** could 5 embody a unitary structure possessing apertures and channels for managing and concealing cables and wires therein.

In yet another alternate embodiment, apparatus **10** 10 could embody other suitable shapes, such as, for exemplary purposes only, pyramidal, diamond, elliptical or semicircle.

In yet still another alternate embodiment, apparatus 15 **10** possesses a decorative trim, wherein the decorative trim is disposed on a top wall, a left sidewall and a right sidewall of apparatus **10**.

In yet still another further alternate embodiment, 20 apparatus **10** could be configured to display more than one electronic visual display.

In still another alternate embodiment, apparatus 10 could possess mounting plates or apertures for audio speakers.

5 In still a further alternate embodiment, apparatus 10 could possess appendages such as shelves and cabinets.

10 In still another alternate embodiment, apparatus 10 could possess any number and configuration of channels for managing and concealing cables and wires.

15 In yet a further alternate embodiment, apparatus 10 could possess any number and configuration of A/V connector plates and associated channels for connecting the electronic visual display to auxiliary electronic devices.

20 In still a further alternate embodiment, apparatus 10 could be configured to stand or hang without the support of a wall surface.

Having thus described exemplary embodiments of the present invention, it should be noted by those skilled in the art that the within disclosures are exemplary only, and

that various other alternatives, adaptations, and modifications may be made within the scope of the present invention. Accordingly, the present invention is not limited to the specific embodiments illustrated herein, but

5 is limited only by the following claims.